State Response to Vendor Questions
DOE Early Childhood Data System
Request for Information

RFI #: 815200-20160720001

#	Requirement	Vendor Question / State Response
1	Administrative	Has funding been approved to move forward with this project? Yes, funding has been approved for this project If so, what amount was approved? Unavailable at this time What is the estimated cost of this project? Undetermined at this time.
2	Administrative	Is there an incumbent contract in place? No If so, who is the incumbent and when does that contract expire? N/A
3	Administrative	In the event that the state moves forward with procurement, is there an estimated time frame available for when the RFP might be issued? The RFP is currently projected to be published during the 2nd quarter calendar year of 2017
4	Administrative	Has funding been allocated and if so, from where? The funding sources are primarily grant based with additional grant opportunities under consideration If not, which source will be sought? N/A
5	Administrative	Does the state have an estimated cost, or desired not to exceed contract amount in mind for this and if so, how much? A final estimate has not yet been determined.
6	Administrative	Has the state acquired any consultant services to date in relation to this effort? Yes
7	Administrative	Does the state anticipate acquiring any consultant services in relation to this effort (QA, IV&V, technical specifications development, project management, feasibility study, etc.)? The acquisition of consulting services is still under consideration. If so, what and when? To be determined
8	Administrative	Is there a task force or steering committee overseeing/planning the project? Yes Is there any dedicated website or portal that stores information regarding the progression of the effort or the decision making process? Yes, progress is being managed using internal resources.
9	System Information	The RFI indicates that the new system will replace several legacy systems, but doesn't indicate specifically which. Can you advise which systems are most likely to be replaced and which vendors provided those systems? Figure 1 provides a diagram of the current systems. All or a portion of the systems identified in Figure 1 may be replaced dependent on the outcome of RFP requirements gathering sessions.

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10	System Information	Which systems, other than CAFÉ, are likely to require integration and which vendors provided them? To be determined

11	System Information	What are the three greatest challenges the state faces with the current systems?
		1. Legacy systems
		    a. Outdated/cumbersome to maintain/difficult data submissions
		    b. Separate systems collecting related data poses challenges when identifying the single source of truth for some elements
		2. Lack of real-time data
		3. Lack of automated reporting

12	Administrative	Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this (such as India or Canada)? Yes, but will be required to abide by state InfoSec requirements for offshore: http://www.doa.la.gov/OTS/InformationSecurity/InformationSecurityPolicy-LA-v.1.0.pdf
13	Administrative	Whether we need to come over there for meetings? Yes, there will be meetings that require the vendor to attend in person
14	Administrative	Can we perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside USA (such as India or Canada)? Yes, with limitations. However the majority of tasks are expected to be performed within the United States, and will be required to abide by state InfoSec requirements for offshore: http://www.doa.la.gov/OTS/InformationSecurity/InformationSecurityPolicy-LA-v.1.0.pdf
15	Administrative	Can we submit the proposals via email? Hard copies are required however emailed versions of the proposal will be accepted as a PDF and/or Zip attachment. Any proposal sent via hard copy and email must be received by the original submission deadline
16	System Information - RFI Page 4	The system will replace several legacy applications, integrate others, and address functional requirements to allow the LDE and its partners across the state to more efficiently and effectively provide high quality educational services beginning in a child's earliest years. Can LDE further clarify which legacy applications will be replaced with ECDS? All or a portion of the LDE's existing systems may be replaced dependent on the outcome of RFP requirements gathering sessions. Can LDE further clarify which legacy applications will remain and be integrated with ECDS? The legacy applications will be identified following RFP requirements gathering sessions and as information is received from vendors in response to this RFI.

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17	System Information - RFI Page 12 Ques 9	How does your system support the ability for remote locations across the State to enter data into a central location? How would you approach data entry or the capture of data from very remote locations with no/limited Internet access? Is this referring to Licensing Inspectors working in the field and capturing inspection data in an offline electronic manner? Yes If so, how many field users would use the application? The current estimate is between 75 and 100 licensing inspectors however other end users may need to be included.
18	System Information – General Question	What is LDE's preferred hosting arrangement? On premise? Private Cloud? Public Cloud? At this time, "on premise" is the preferred hosting arrangement. However alternatives are being discussed as part of RFP requirements gathering sessions and as we receive information from vendors responding to this RFI.
19	System Information	Is the state open to a Microsoft-based solution (Microsoft SQL Server-based)? Yes
20	System Information	Does data in the existing CAFÉ portal contain data prior to 2011? Yes. If so, was this data migrated from prior years from older systems? Yes.
21	System Information	Will the new early childhood data system begin collecting data starting after the system is completed, or would prior existing data need to be imported and available? Yes, the system will need to import data currently located within the existing systems as well as new data entered throughout the life of the project. If so, what kind of existing early childhood student data would need to be imported into the new system? The type of data to be imported into the new system will be identified following RFP requirements gathering sessions and using information provided from vendors responding to this RFI.

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22	System Information	For the systems depicted in Figure 1, and listed in the glossary, can you provide additional information such as;
		     a) Manufacturer or Developed In-house Primarily in-house development
		     b) Installation Date various
		     c) Technology – Mainframe, Client Server, Web-based etc. Combination of all three
		     d) Database Type- various
		     e) User Accessibility – Virtual Private Network (VPN), Internet, Terminals Yes a combination of all three
		     f) OTS's priority and strategic intention;
		       #1 – Core System, functionality, cost, and technology <u>outdated</u> and does not meet the needs of our business To be determined
		
		       #2 - Core System, functionality, cost, and technology <u>near end of life</u>, meets some but not all the needs of our business To be determined
		
		       #3 - Core System, functionality, cost, and technology current, <u>meets</u> the needs of our business To be determined
		
		       #4 – Ancillary System that provides specific data to the process To be determined

23	System Information – Starting on Page 3	There are references throughout the RFI document about expansion to a comprehensive birth to grade twelve (12) system. The illustrations and information provide some high level descriptions that are helpful. In order to best provide information in our response, do you envision this expanded system eventually serving as your SLDS (e.g. LDOE Insight Portal) for longitudinal collection and reporting? Yes Do you envision this system being a transactional system for case management for IFSPs and/or IEPs? This may be considered based on the information received from vendors responding to this RFI. Are you looking for a vendor to provide a solution that serves each function (SLDS/IFSP/IEP)? The State is primarily looking for an SLDS solution however it is open to other options depending on what is being presented.

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24	System Information – Page 3	The State describes the purpose of the RFI. Can you please briefly describe in one or two sentences how this expanded system will support the State in its accountability plan under ESSA? The new system must comply with all applicable State and Federal requirements. Will the stakeholder meetings taking place across the State now for ESSA inform your RFI requirements? No If so, in what areas of functionality do you expect there to be the most impact? It has not been determined at this time. Similarly, can you briefly describe how the system will support the development of report cards and/or measuring the long term impact of early childhood programs on student success and learning? The intent is to acquire a system that is dynamic and flexible enough to expand as changes to State and Federal requirements are identified.
25	System Information – Page 4	It states the system will "replace several legacy systems". Can the State please list which specific systems and briefly functionality that will be replaced by these replacement systems? The legacy systems will be identified following RFP requirements gathering sessions and information provided from vendors responding to this RFI.
26	System Information – Page 5	Figure 1 depicts existing K-12 systems, and on page 4 of the RFI, it states that the State is seeking to "identify other benefits to leveraging an ECDS and birth through grade twelve (12) solution." Is the State interested in potentially replacing all of the K-12 systems depicted in Figure 1 by leveraging an ECDS? To be determined.
27	System Information – Page 5	In the systems represented in figure, do LEAs currently submit redundant data elements to the systems that are illustrated in the dotted box in Figure 1? (SIS, SER, Student Assessments, etc.?) Yes. Would the State be interested in responses that provide a centralized tool to streamline this effort and/or work to improve data quality from Pre-K to 12? Yes

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28	System Information – Page 5	You outline the "Current Environment" in Figure 1. Can you please describe (with a sentence or two) the types of data outputs and processes that you would to see supported through the expanded system? The type of data outputs and processes will be identified during the RFP requirements gathering sessions and from information gathered from vendors responding to this RFI. In your response, please share your recommended solutions based on your experiences with other states and current Federal requirements. For example, will this system: Collect and report data for USDOE EDFacts reporting in Pre-K through 12? Yes Collect and report data to help case managers providing Early Intervention services (birth to age 3) in support of L.A.s "early steps" program? It is possible. Collect and report data to help educators develop and manage IEPs? It is possible. Collect and report data that is/was collected and managed in L.A.'s Special Education Reporting System (SER)? It is possible. Collect and report data used to create L.A.s Annual Financial Reports? It is possible. Collect and manage the information need to calculate adjusted cohort graduation rates or individual and aggregate student growth? It is possible.
29	System Information	Many states use the data collected in the systems included here (e.g. SIS/SLDS/SER) to support school-based Medicaid reimbursement claims. Is the State interested in how these data can be collected and reported along with service documentation to support and improve those processes to help increase revenue for the State? Yes
30	System Information – Page 6	Figure 2 depicts the CAFÉ Functionality. Is everything listed under the functionality in this box currently being performed through various systems? Yes What specific functions are not currently being performed that appear in the red box? All the functions identified are being performed either manually or through some combination of manual/semi-automated processes.

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31	System Information – Page 11	The State begins to outline its general questions by category. Can you please describe the types of customer support, training and other related professional development that L.A. envisions providing LEA staff members who use the resulting system(s)? At this time, we envision a combination of web based and in person training and support. The state is also considering that some or all of this effort may be provided through a vendor. Will the State like to have information on customer service and staff training as part of vendors' responses? Yes Will experience in this area be a requirement of successful vendors in any resulting RFP? To be determined
32	System Information – Page 12	You outline questions about a firm's experience implementing systems (e.g. Question #6). Is the State currently using the services of a planning/design vendor for the ECDS? Yes, a planning vendor is on site. Does the state anticipate procuring the services of a planning/design vendor separately from the system implementation vendor? At this time, we are planning to use the system implementation vendor for the final design. What are the characteristics that you are seeking in such a vendor? The expectation is that the system development vendor presents a design that will, at a minimum, meets the needs outlined within the RFP.
33	System Information	What are all the current legacy applications? See Figure 1 to view the primary legacy systems.
34	System Information	What are the current integration applications? Major integration points are identified in Figure 1, however most integration is completed manually. Which applications do you integrate with now? See Figure 1.
35	System Information	What are the functional requirements you are trying to address? Functional and technical requirements will be provided when the RFP is published
36	System Information	Are you looking for a platform on which to build a solution or are you looking to partner with a vendor who has a previously built solution? The potential solution will be based on the systems being identified for replacement during the RFP requirements gathering sessions and information obtained from vendors responding to this RFI. It is anticipated that based on the information gathered, the solution may include custom, off-the-shelf and/or a combination of the two.

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37	System Information	Will the RFI be used to exclude vendors from competing in the RFP? No. The RFI was published only to gather information from responding vendors.
38	System Information	If we don't complete an RFI will we be excluded from the RFP? No
39	System Information	The RFI appears to be a request for: Services - implementation Software Hardware Components - COTS Operations Support Design Develop - New solutions Services after implementation - configure and customize If a vendor only chooses to do one thing well does that exclude them from competing? No, the RFI was published to gather information only. All feedback is being considered.
40	System Information	If a vendor is best of breed in all the categories does that carry more weight than only a single category? RFI responses are not weighted since the goal is simply to gather information.
41	System Information	Since the State of Louisiana is looking for the lowest cost with existing state investments, would Hybrid Cloud be a viable low cost solution? All options are being considered Is Cloud ruled out altogether or partially ruled out? All options are being considered
42	System Information	Are there limits on how much of the work can be done with overseas resources? A final decision on the distribution and location of work has not been determined. If so, what are they? To be determined
43	System Information	Is the current Early Childhood System and K-12 System depicted in Figure 1 of your RFI, homegrown or built by a vendor(s)? The majority of the systems listed in Figure 1 have been developed in house by State staff. If so, by whom? There have been various vendors over decades that have assisted in the development and maintenance of the existing systems
44	System Information	Does the LDE use any Microsoft tools such as SQL server and .NET? Yes
45	System Information	What existing tools do you have for data visualization and reporting? ERWIN, SPSS, SAS, SQL Reports and Crystal Reports

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46	Administrative	What is your expected time frame to release RFP for these services? The RFP is currently projected to be published during the 2nd quarter calendar year of 2017
47	Administrative	What is LDE's anticipated budget for this project? This has not been determined
48	Administrative	Is the 120-page limit inclusive of attachments (For example: Are items such as project management templates or training material samples exceptions to the 120-page limit?) No, attachments can be considered outside the 120 page limit.
49	System Information	Will the unique identifiers assigned by the Identity Resolution System be consumed/retained within each source system, such that ongoing data submission from source systems will include the student's unique identifier for purposes of matching and data warehouse loads? This is the current expectation however as additional information is received from requirements gathering sessions and vendor responses to the RFI the State has committed to remain open to alternative solutions.
50	System Information	Will all incoming data and files include a Local ID from the submitting source? The current expectation includes some form of Local ID however as additional information is received from requirements gathering sessions and vendor responses to the RFI the State has committed to remain open to alternative solutions. And do Local IDs link all submission files together for each student? Possibly
51	System Information	Does LDE expect all partner agencies at a minimum include these four matching elements (see below) on each identity resolution submission? The current expectation includes these four data elements however, as additional information is received from requirements gathering sessions and vendor responses to the RFI, the State has committed to remain open to alternative solutions. (Context: In our experience, the combination of elements "First Name, Last Name, Gender and Date of Birth" yield the highest degree of accuracy.)
52	System Information	Is there a list of available matching elements per each data source system? Yes If so, can LDE please provide such list before the submission of the RFI? A list of available matching elements for each data source will not be provided during the RFI process.

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53	System Information	Is LDE's intent to leverage the existing LASecureID system for this ECDS initiative? The current expectation includes use of LASecureID however as additional information is received from requirements gathering sessions and vendor responses to the RFI, the State has committed to remain open to alternative solutions. Or does LDE intend to have a separate unique identifier system? The RFP requirements gathering sessions as well as information obtained by vendors through this RFI process will be used to make the final determination.